

few wild rivers in the Northeast for which so many people enjoy recreation.

The property proposed for the location of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River's primary visitors' facility, the Mongaup Visitor Center, is owned by the State of New York's Department of Environmental Conservation. That property was acquired by the State in 1990 as part of a much larger purchase of an 11,000-acre tract intended to provide habitat for a population of wintering bald eagles.

New York State legislation authorizing Federal development of the property as a visitors center by means of a long-term lease was adopted in 1993. A legislative support data package was prepared in 1994 for Federal legislation authorizing development of that site and authorizing appropriation of funds for development and to increase the Upper Delaware's operational base to provide for year-round operation.

The site for the Mongaup Visitor Center contains abundant natural and cultural resources, and this proposal will identify and develop strategies to protect the Mongaup area's natural resources, including the expanding bald eagle population, the half million migrating American shad, 200 species of birds, upland and flood plain forests, hemlock and laurel gorges, and a mile of river front with natural sand beaches.

Mr. Speaker, the visitor center will benefit the community in many respects. It will serve as an educational asset, a local museum, a classroom, and as a driving force in a promotion of the natural and historical resources of the entire region.

Moreover, with 85 percent of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River under private ownership, the region's struggles to maintain a balance between private property and recreation continues.

Bordered by the Delaware River, the Mongaup River, and New York State Highway Route 97, the visitors center would provide a central location to promote all the services and natural beauty that the region has to offer. The only center of its kind within an hour's drive of New York City, the Mongaup visitor center would open the Upper Delaware Valley to both the local and visiting public.

The National Park Service has been overseeing this area for some 20 years without any base of operations. The State of New York has dedicated funding to purchase the land for this project, to upgrade river services, and to restore the bald eagle population to the region.

As a final phase of the river management plan, the citizens of the Upper Delaware Valley have been apparently awaiting the commencement of this long overdue project.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy measure.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Upper Delaware is a national treasure. Through the efforts of the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), there will be thousands of people each year that will be able to view it and to kayak in it and to enjoy this beautiful scenic river.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 20.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LAMPREY WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EXTENSION ACT

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1615) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to extend the designation of a portion of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as a recreational river to include an additional river segment.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1615

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lamprey Wild and Scenic River Extension Act".

SEC. 2. LAMPREY RECREATIONAL RIVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

(a) ADDITIONAL SEGMENT.—The paragraph entitled "LAMPREY RIVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE" in section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "11.5-mile segment extending from the southern Lee town line" and inserting "23.5-mile segment extending from the Bunker Pond Dam in Epping"; and

(2) by striking "towns of" and inserting "towns of Epping."

(b) MANAGEMENT.—Section 405 of division I of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 110 Stat. 4149; 16 U.S.C. 1274 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting "Epping," before "Durham"; and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1615.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of 1615, introduced by my colleague the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU). The gentleman is to be congratulated for his work in protecting a valuable and picturesque river.

Specifically, H.R. 1615 amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to extend the Wild and Scenic River designation to a 12-mile segment of the Lamprey River running through New Hampshire. This new addition would be designated as a recreational river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

As part of the Omnibus Parks and Public Land Management Act of 1996, an 11½ mile segment of the Lamprey River was designated at that time as a recreational river. The study done for this segment also found that an additional 12-mile segment upstream warrants a like designation. Now that there is overwhelming local support, this section of the Lamprey River is ready for the designation.

This bill is supported by the National Park Service, and I urge my colleagues also to support H.R. 1615.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 1991, the Congress directed the National Park Service to study the Lamprey River in New Hampshire to determine what portion of the river might be eligible for designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

In 1995, the National Park Service concluded that a little more than 23 miles met the requirements for such designation. However, at the time, there was local support for designating only 11½ miles of the river. As a result, in 1996, Congress abided by the wishes of the local community and designated only the 11.5-mile segment.

Just 3 years later, the designation is so popular in those areas which have it and the programs which grow out of this Wild and Scenic River designation are so successful that those communities where support was once lacking have now voted overwhelmingly to have their segment of the river included. H.R. 1615 would add the additional 12-mile segment to the portion of the Lamprey that is already designated a Wild and Scenic River.

Mr. Speaker, there are two very important things to note here. In designating the Lamprey, the National Park Service and the Congress have been very careful to listen to the wishes of the local communities and to abide by them. In addition, contrary to the views offered by critics of this program, when local communities have an opportunity to see firsthand the positive effects of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, they cannot wait to be included.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill that has bipartisan support, and we urge our colleagues to support H.R. 1615.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU).

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1615, the Lamprey Wild and Scenic River Extension Act. This legislation seeks to fulfill the original intent of the 1996 Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act by incorporating a 12-mile river segment that runs through the Town of Epping, New Hampshire, under the Lamprey River's existing Wild and Scenic designation. H.R. 1615 helps to put the finishing touch on a 29-year effort to protect the Lamprey as a valuable and historic natural resource.

The Lamprey is located in the southeast region of our State and continues to be among New Hampshire's important tributaries.

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As one of only two rivers to achieve Wild and Scenic status, it spans 60 miles and flows through six communities before emptying into the Seacoast Great Bay Estuarine Reserve. Over 300 species of plants and 150 species of birds inhabit its river banks as well as its neighboring marshes and forests, providing a diverse and scenic landscape. The Lamprey is also host to a large quantity of anadromous fish throughout the Great Bay watershed, which include Atlantic salmon, American shad, herring and sea Lamprey as well.

Apart from its impressive ecology, the Lamprey has long been a popular recreational resource for swimming, fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing. The watershed region also houses several historically significant sites including the Wiswall Dam, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Realizing the importance of the Lamprey as both a natural and economic resource, several organizations and local entities have collaborated in efforts to ensure its stability and long-term preservation. For years, the towns of Durham, Epping, Lee and Newmarket have worked with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to ensure the safekeeping and quality of the Lamprey River. They have been joined by the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, the Stafford Regional Planning Commission and New Hampshire Fish and Game as well to ensure common-sense, local approaches to conservation. The coalition's hard work has led to State efforts to safeguard the river under the

New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program, and ultimately the 1996 Wild and Scenic River designation of the 11.5 mile portion of the Lamprey in Durham, Lee and Newmarket.

Most notably, the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, whose members are nominated by each town in the area and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, has made significant strides in preserving and protecting the integrity of the Lamprey by implementing this river management plan. Two years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with the members of the committee, touring the river's many scenic areas and historic sites and surveying some of the projects upon which the organization has focused its efforts.

Although the National Park Service determined in 1995 that Epping's portion of the Lamprey met the criteria of eligibility for the Wild and Scenic designation, the town opted to wait until the initiative received broad based local support through a town meeting and vote. Last March, with the backing of the Board of Selectmen and the local conservation commission, the citizens of Epping voted by a large margin in support of the expanded Wild and Scenic River designation. At their request, I have introduced H.R. 1615 to enable this community of over 5,000 to build upon the success of the original Lamprey designation and to ensure the continued integrity of this important historic tributary.

Again, I want to thank the members of the committee for their support in moving this legislation forward. I urge the passage of H.R. 1615.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1615.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD LAND ACQUISITION ACT

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1665) to allow the National Park Service to acquire certain land for addition to the Wilderness Battlefield in Virginia, as previously authorized by law, by purchase or exchange as well as by donation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1665

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITION TO WILDERNESS BATTLEFIELD, VIRGINIA.

(a) REMOVAL OF CONDITION ON BATTLEFIELD ADDITION.—Section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 102-541 (16 U.S.C. 425k note; 106 Stat. 3565) is amended by striking “; Provided,” and all that follows through “Interior”.

(b) AUTHORIZED METHODS OF ACQUISITION.—(1) LIMITATIONS ON ACQUISITION METHODS.—Section 3(a) of Public Law 101-214 (16 U.S.C. 425(a)) is amended—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The lands designated ‘P04-04’ on the map referred to in section 2(a) numbered 326-40072E/89/A and dated September 1990 may be acquired only by donation, and the lands designated ‘P04-01’, ‘P04-02’, and ‘P04-03’ on such map may be acquired only by donation, purchase from willing sellers, or exchange.”.

(2) REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION ON ACQUISITION OF ADDITION.—Section 2 of Public Law 102-541 (16 U.S.C. 425k note; 106 Stat. 3565) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(c) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 2(a) of Public Law 101-214 (16 U.S.C. 425k(a)) is amended by striking “Spotsylvania” and inserting “Spotsylvania”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1665, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN). The gentleman from Virginia has worked hard on this bill which will help the National Park Service protect additional Civil War battlefield land. H.R. 1665 allows the Park Service to acquire certain land for addition to the Wilderness Battlefield in Virginia by purchase or exchange as well as donation. Currently, the Park Service can acquire land only by donation, thereby preventing landowners from disposing of property the Park Service desires to include in the battlefield boundaries. Recently, however, the owners of three tracts of land have expressed their desire to dispose of property to the Park Service which is within the boundaries of the battlefield. Enactment of H.R. 1665 would allow the Park Service to acquire this land.